

ORIGINAL

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0310

MM 99-25

July 12, 1999

Ms. Karen Kornbluh
Director
Office Of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Ms. Kornbluh:

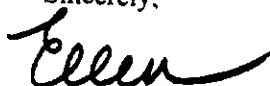
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I am forwarding the enclosed constituent letter from the 10th District of California to you because the issues discussed can be more adequately answered by your staff. I appreciate any information or assistance you can forward to my constituents.

Should you have any specific concerns or questions regarding this request, please contact Julie Nielson of my staff at (202) 225-1880.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress

EOT:jn

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5463 Kathy Way
Livermore, Ca 94550

April 29, 1999

Ellen Tauscher
1440 Longworth Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representative Tauscher,

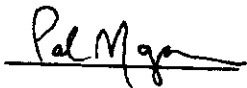
I am writing in regards to the actions, and plans, that the Federal Communications Commission have undertaken in the past year in their relationship with "pirate," or micro-power radio stations. In 1998 alone, over 260 micro-power stations were shut down by the FCC. The stations varied greatly, from right wing, to leftist, from children's programming to punk rock shows. But they all committed the same crime in the eyes of the FCC: broadcasting without the proper license. The FCC will not grant a station a license to broadcast on the airwaves if the station's broadcast power is lower than 100 watts. Even if a station is that powerful, the cost of a license a high, starting at \$6,000, which most micro-powered stations just can not afford.

In 1996, the Federal Communications Act increased the number of radio stations that a corporation can own from 40 to 100. This caused a consolidation of stations into the hands of a few giant corporations, which in turn has lead to greater control over ideas that the public can hear about over the airwaves. Micro-power stations give a voice to the issues that commercial radio ignores. Local, and even national, topics that commercial stations decline to discuss are given full time on the air.

In January, the FCC did vote 4 to 1 to begin to allow under 100 watt stations, or LP-100's, to buy license to broadcast with. While a civil gesture, the FCC's plan is terribly flawed. By selling licenses, the FCC is in affect turning the micro-power radio stations into commercial stations. To make matters worse, even with a license, a micro-powered station will be relegated to "secondary" status, which means their place on the radio dial will constantly be subject to the whims of their larger, and more powerful neighbors.

There are actions that can be taken that will allow these pirate stations to coexist with their giant wattage neighbors. The huge amounts of power that the FCC has allocated to stations in urban areas (which are the most crowded airwave-wise) needs to be brought down. Also, let stations under 10-watts broadcast without a license if they can prove that their signal will not interfere with anyone else's. Third, grant micro-powered stations non-commercial status. I urge you to fight against not only the FCC's recent actions, but their pseudo-helpful licensing plan as well. I thank you for you time regarding this issue. One way or another, low-power broadcasting is here to stay.

Sincerely,



Paul Morgan